

Bible Study Guide
John 7, John 8, and John 9

Introductions and Outlines

John 7

*Introduction by Matthew Henry
from Matthew Henry's Whole Bible Commentary*

In this chapter we have, I. Christ's declining for some time to appear publicly in Judea (v. 1). II. His design to go up to Jerusalem at the feast of tabernacles, and his discourse with his kindred in Galilee concerning his going up to this feast (v. 2-13). III. His preaching publicly in the temple at that feast. 1. In the midst of the feast (v. 14, 15). We have his discourse with the Jews, (1.) Concerning his doctrine (v. 16-18). (2.) Concerning the crime of sabbath-breaking laid to his charge (v. 19-24). (3.) Concerning himself, both whence he came and whither he was going (v. 25-36). 2. On the last day of the feast. (1.) His gracious invitation to poor souls to come to him (v. 37-39). (2.) The reception that it met with. [1.] Many of the people disputed about it (v. 40-44). [2.] The chief priests would have brought him into trouble for it, but were first disappointed by their officers (v. 45-49) and then silenced by one of their own court (v. 50-53).

Outline:

John 7:1-13 (Jesus Goes to the Festival of the Tabernacles)

- Notice how Jesus is not concerned with the worldly advantages of himself being a public figure.
- Jesus was aware that some (including his own brothers) didn't have much faith in him.

John 7:14-24 (Jesus Teaches at the Festival)

- Note how Jesus tells them that the teachings are not his. The teachings Jesus has come from the Father in heaven. Even Jesus did what glorified God.
- In basic terms Jesus tells us to not judge by outward appearance, as many did to him at that time. He tells us to judge by truth.

John 7:25-44 (Division Over Who Jesus Is)

- Jesus explains the people's errors to them about the misconception of his origin.
- At this time the Jewish leaders wanted to seize him, but could not since Jesus time had not come.
- The things Jesus said convinced many that he was the Messiah, but they would not admit it aloud.
- Some still doubted and Jesus explained how he will quench their thirst. He will quench

everyone's thirst that seeks holy blessings. Only Christ can quench our spiritual thirsts.

John 7:45-53 (Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders)

- Notice how the Pharisees are without reason. Even the guards noticed that what Jesus spoke of was something special, something divine.

John 8

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In this chapter we have, I. Christ's evading the snare which the Jews laid for him, in bringing to him a woman taken in adultery (v. 1-11). II. Divers discourses or conferences of his with the Jews that cavilled at him, and sought occasion against him, and made every thing he said a matter of controversy. 1. Concerning his being the light of the world (v. 12-20). 2. Concerning the ruin of the unbelieving Jews (v. 21-30). 3. Concerning liberty and bondage (v. 31-37). 4. Concerning his Father and their father (v. 38-47). 5. Here is his discourse in answer to their blasphemous reproaches (v. 48-50). 6. Concerning the immortality of believers (v. 51-59). And in all this he endured the contradiction of sinners against himself.

Outline:

John 8:1-11 (continued from end of Chapter 7)

- Note how Jesus points out the pharisees own sins without calling them out directly and individually. He tells them that if they are sinless or not guilty of the same things then they are able to judge. Jesus knows that none of them are able to judge and they do as well. Jesus shows in this instance that he is here to save not condemn. Jesus helps those (like the pharisees) by making them aware of their sins and in the same instance the criminal that they wanted to condemn.

John 8:12-20 (Dispute Over Jesus' Testimony)

- Note that Jesus refers to himself as the light of the world. He is the light that came to brighten the darkened world that is full of sin. A light to guide us through the darkness that surrounds us.
- One cannot believe God and not Christ or vice versus.
- Once again the Jewish leaders fail to seize Jesus, because it was not yet time. Only the Father in heaven knew the exact time when Jesus would die on the cross.

John 8:21-30 (Dispute Over Who Jesus Is)

- The pharisees once again question who Jesus is even though he has explained it before.

- Jesus explains that he is not from this world and that when they have lifted him up or exalted him that they will understand who he is and not until then.

John 8:31-47 (Dispute Over Whose Children Jesus' Opponents Are)

- Here Jesus encourages the Jews that remained to believe in him to follow, believe, and listen to the truth that he speaks. He explains to them that they are slaves to sin and that he is the one who can set them free.
- The Jews in a sense are quite pigheaded on this occasion since even though they believe in Christ they still somewhat argue who their father is.
- Jesus explains how Satan is their father since they follow him. Jesus tells them that if their father was the Father in heaven (God) that they would walk before Him in a way that is not sinful and of this world.

John 8:48-59 (Jesus' Claims About Himself)

- Jesus explains that anyone who believes in him will not see death. Meaning that those who believe and receive salvation through Christ will live eternally after temporal death.
- Once again Jesus speaks of from where he came. He says, I am, referring to his being before Abraham was alive. This tells us that Jesus was in heaven already and was sent to the world.
- Jesus once again slips away since it was not yet his time.

John 9

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After Christ's departure out of the temple, in the close of the foregoing chapter, and before this happened which is recorded in this chapter, he had been for some time abroad in the country, it is supposed about two or three months; in which interval of time Dr. Lightfoot and other harmonists place all the passages that occur from Lu. 10:17 to 13:17. What is recorded in ch. 7 and 8 was at the feast of tabernacles, in September; what is recorded in this and the following chapter was at the feast of dedication in December, ch. 10:22. Mr. Clark and others place this immediately after the foregoing chapter. In this chapter we have, I. The miraculous cure of a man that was born blind (v. 1-7). II. The discourses which were occasioned by it. 1. A discourse of the neighbours among themselves, and with the man (v. 8-12). 2. Between the Pharisees and the man (v. 13-34). 3. Between Christ and the poor man (v. 35-38). 4. Between Christ and the Pharisees (v. 39 to the end).

Outline:

John 9:1-12 (Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind)

- Here Jesus makes it evident that ailments, diseases, and disabilities are not the punishment of one's sins nor that of their parents, but can rather be looked upon as a vessel through which to do God's works.
- A lesson learned here is that we should be encouraged to share with others what God has done in our lives, much as the blind man did. When God does great things in our lives, let those around you know. Be a monument of Christ's glory.

John 9:13-34 (The Pharisees Investigate The Healing)

- The pharisees sought to find a reason to condemn Jesus after this healing. First they wanted to disprove the miracle.
- The pharisees try very hard to disprove the miracle and the once blind man marvels at their willfulness to completely disregard what has happened. They did not want to believe because they were set in their ways... they wanted the Messiah, but they wanted him to be what they wanted, not who God had sent.

John 9:34-41 (Spiritual Blindness)

- The blind man worships Jesus which says a lot since Jews were to worship no one but God. This shows that the man professes that Jesus is God.
- Jesus came into the world to make the blind see – to heal those who are spiritually blind and open their eyes to God's glory. He also came to blind those who can see – meaning to hide the ignorance of those who seek only to glorify themselves or look highly upon themselves.